

Mountain Lion Behavior Risk Cards

Information provided by Defenses Against Cougars by E. Lee Fitzhugh at <http://users.frii.com/mytymyk/lions/pumadfn.htm>.

MOUNTAIN LION ACTION Far away and moving even farther away	MEANING Secretive Trying to avoid contact	HUMAN RISK Insignificant	APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Keep children where they can be observed.
MOUNTAIN LION ACTION More than 100 yards away with attention directed away from people	MEANING Indifferent	HUMAN RISK Slight, if human response is appropriate	APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Avoid rapid movements, running, and loud noise. Keep close eye on children. Watch mountain lion.
MOUNTAIN LION ACTION More than 50 yards away; Seems to be following or focusing intently on people; Ears may be up.	MEANING Curiosity	HUMAN RISK Slight for adults, if human response is appropriate; Serious for unattended children	APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Hold children and do not turn your back. Try to stand higher than mountain lion. Look for rocks and sticks and pick them up without bending over. Watch mountain lion at all times.

<p>MOUNTAIN LION ACTION Closer than 50 yards and trying to hide; Seems to be focused on people.</p>	<p>MEANING Assessing the success of an attack</p>	<p>HUMAN RISK Substantial</p>	<p>APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Hold children and place them behind adults. Do not run. Prepare to defend yourself. Raise hands or jackets to look larger. Pick up rocks and sticks without bending over and throw them at the lion.</p>
<p>MOUNTAIN LION ACTION Hiding while creeping close; Staring at people.</p>	<p>MEANING Moving into attack position</p>	<p>HUMAN RISK Serious, if within 200 yards</p>	<p>APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Hold children and place them behind adults. Try to place large objects like boulders and trees between yourself and the lion. Show your teeth. Make loud noises. Pick up rocks and sticks without bending over and throw them at the lion.</p>
<p>MOUNTAIN LION ACTION Crouching low to ground with tail twitching and ears up; Staring intently at people.</p>	<p>MEANING Awaiting the opportunity to attack</p>	<p>HUMAN RISK Grave</p>	<p>APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Hold children and place large objects between yourself and the lion. Pick up rocks and sticks without bending over and throw them at the lion. Use pepper spray if close enough and downwind.</p>
<p>MOUNTAIN LION ACTION Head and body low to ground with tail twitching and ears turned "fur" side forward; Rear legs may be "pumping" or "treading" the ground.</p>	<p>MEANING Imminent attack</p>	<p>HUMAN RISK Extreme</p>	<p>APPROPRIATE RESPONSE Make loud noises. Prepare to defend yourself by fighting back if attacked. Act aggressive, even running toward the lion while throwing rocks and sticks. Stop before you are within striking distance of the paws. Do not turn your back on the lion.</p>